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November 16, 2008

RECEIVED

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958 Paige Court
Langhorne, PA 19053

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649
RE: 16A-5124: CRNP General Revisions

Dear Ms Steffanic:

I have been a Nurse Practitioner for about ten years. Our profession has overcome many obstacles to our practice during that time, but there are still some obstacles. We need to make some changes to our regulations that will improve patient's quality of care. For instance, most of my patients are elderly and have prescription plans that require them to mail in a 90 day supply prescription. Our regulations do not allow us to write for a 90 day supply of medications. This impacts patient care. I work in a hospital and we are trying to make sure the patients have the prescriptions that they need on discharge. I am unable to write for the 90 day supply unless our regulations are changed.

A few years ago, I worked in an Occupational Health clinic where the biggest complaint was pain. I could only write a prescription for a three day supply of pain medication. This would require that the patient come back to the office for a prescription. It is an inconvenience to the patients, who are already uncomfortable. The new regulations will allow us to prescribe a 30 day supply of pain medication.

Nurse Practitioners provide safe and competent care to their patients as much research on this topic has shown. Patients like seeing NPs because we spend a little extra time with the patients and actually listen to what they are telling us. We spend time educating the patients so that they can take better care of themselves. Our regulations need to allow us to practice to our full scope and the changes to the regulations will us to get closer to that goal.

Sincerely,

Anne Staino Curran CRNP
Anne Staino Curran CRNP
Nurse Practitioner

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